



Privacy & Data Protection

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Headlines:

- Police “absolutely ridiculous” - Lord Chancellor, p.14
- Employee drug testing on the increase, p.15
- Sarbanes Oxley may be watered down, p.15
- Irish schools adopt fingerprinting, p.16

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European Central Bank slammed on data transfers

The confidential banking information of millions of people and businesses is still being abused on a massive scale by a secretive programme giving US agencies access to the information.

Peter Hustinx, the European Data Protection Supervisor, accused the EU’s banks and financial authorities of doing nothing to stop the breaches, which result from Swift (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) supplying the US Treasury and the CIA with the details.

In a damning report on the

covert transfer to US agencies of the details of millions of financial transactions on EU citizens, Mr Hustinx accused the European Central Bank of complicity in the system that has been used since 9/11 and which was deemed illegal by European data protection agencies two months ago.

After 9/11, Swift agreed to cooperate with the US Treasury by creating a system where personal data is transferred to a ‘black box’ owned by the US authorities, enabling ‘massive transfers of data’ and the ‘focused searching’ of

the information by US agencies.

Brussels-based Swift says it is obliged to cooperate with the US authorities because it is subject to US subpoenas and could be fined for ignoring the requests.

Mr Hustinx said that the Swift operation “has breached the trust and private lives of many millions of people.” He accused the Frankfurt-based European Central Bank of failing to demand a halt to the operation and of keeping quiet for years on the controversy.

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Paris incensed by sex and medical revelations

In an unusual and deeply invasive case of privacy infringement, Paris Hilton has filed a lawsuit, claiming the website ParisExposed.com is “the single most egregious and reprehensible invasions of privacy ever committed against an individual.”

ParisExposed.com, includes sex photos and videos, highly-sensitive medical records, diary entries and audiotapes of Miss Hilton’s conversations. The publication of this material was made possible due to that fact that Paris Hilton omit-

ted to pay a bill at her storage facility, following which the owner of the facility put the personal possessions on sale at auction. The lot was purchased for \$2,775 and subsequently sold on to two enterprising individuals for \$10 million.

For \$39.97 a month, ParisExposed.com, launched by David Hans Schmitt and Bardia Persa, offers subscribers access to Hilton’s most personal documents, including medical bills, her sister Nicky’s

marriage certificate, bank statements, and prescription bottles for medication. The site apparently also streams home videos, including one showing cocaine consumption and lists the private phone numbers of thousands of celebrities including Donald Trump, Chelsea Clinton, Michael Jackson, Nicole Ritchie, Christina Aguilera, Pink, Madonna, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The federal lawsuit, which asks for compensa-

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